

SUMMARY OF QUESTIONS NOT ACCEPTED FOR CONFERENCE 2025			
2	Allow members to serve at conference again after a period of 10 years	TOR 5	<p>The Committee feels that this would not be in accordance with the spirit of Rotation as laid out in Tradition 9 and elsewhere in AA literature. Furthermore, this was discussed at Conference 2024 by Committee 3 on Question 2 where they said:</p> <p>Importance of rotation Rotation is essential, healthy and improves communication within the service structure and with each other. It generates new ideas, strengthens recovery and diminishes ego. Service helps keep you sober.</p> <p>ii) Impact of vacancies Our experiences show that following the guidelines in the handbooks help groups to fill vacancies via informed group conscience. Our experience recognises the positive benefits of continuing to sponsor people into service, making one-to-one contact and holding service workshops.</p> <p>iii) Members not occupying the same roles repeatedly This is important in order to discourage territorial and complacent behaviour. This encourages all members to get involved in service</p> <p>Given that the majority of Regions able to provide 6 delegates and the pattern of vacancies tends to differ year on year, please also refer to Conference 2021 Committee 4 Q1 where Conference shared their experience on the importance of Rotation. TOR 5</p>
3	Would Conference consider dissolving CER from the GB structure	TOR10 and TOR11	Conference do not have the ability to dissolve a region.
6	treasurers holding the service position for several groups finance at group level.	TOR7 and TOR9	Conference upholds the autonomy of Groups and this information is already covered in the 2023 edition of the Structure Handbook, p 105
7	Using the word 'National' on the website and WTF	TOR8	<p>As the question highlights, it is not clear from the Home page on our AA website that this is AA GB (England, Scotland, Wales & Continental European Region)</p> <p>https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/</p> <p>and maybe some might also assume it's UK as it's an ORG.UK address? The Meeting Finder has a drop down list for Country with United Kingdom as the first entry (rather than Great Britain), albeit Northern Ireland are by definition not included in the Finder. The drop down list includes a long list of European countries (the majority of which are not included in CER) but also Japan, Morocco and United Arab Emirates.</p> <p>This question is therefore being referred to the Board for review and action – TOR 8</p>
8	Move Chat Now service to fellowship rather than GSB	TOR12	Chat Now operates via a contract between GSO and an IT company and is located via the AAGB website fully owned and operated by the General Service Board. Full legal and complete financial liability for all its contents and management lies with the GSB, and legally incorporated body. As such Chat Now must remain with the GSB. This does not however preclude any Region, Intergroup or Group operating its own such facility providing it is through their own wholly owned and operated website.
9	Currently the Blue Card states that "attendance is limited to persons who have a desire to stop drinking" for both Closed and Open Meetings.	TOR10	The questioner has misquoted and taken out of context the Tradition 3 reference changing membership to attendance
11	giving GSRs a voice and a vote at Region.	TOR 7 and TOR9	Conference upholds the autonomy of Groups . In addition GSRs have the collective conscience of the groups, which is taken to pre and post Conference in many regional assemblies.
13	Trustee Nomination Process	TOR5 and TOR8	The Board will incorporate the changes into the Structure Handbook which will form part of conference 2025 if it decides to continue the policy.
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16	Making minutes of board meetings available	TOR12	The Charity Commission recommends that minutes of a Charity's AGM be made fully available to all its members. In this case the members of the General Service Board are the Trustees. However following each Board meeting, bullet points are made available to all Regions via the Vice-Chair emailing them to Regional Chairs / Secretaries.
17	Right to respond to CSC rejection	TOR7	Each year there are significantly more questions submitted than the 12 that will go forward to Conference, e.g. this year there were over 80 questions submitted, in some previous years there has been over 100. The members of the Steering Committee start to individually review questions in June, continuing until the cut-off date for submission of questions of the 31 st August. The Committee then meets on a number of occasions to jointly review all of the questions, prioritising and categorising them as per the CSC TOR; this might include some redrafting of a question (TOR 2) or consolidation of similar questions (TOR 3). Once this has all been completed and the Committee agreed on which 12 questions will go forward to Conference we then have to draft and agree the responses to the Questioners for all of the questions which won't be going to Conference (many of which though will still be resolved/actioned via alternative routes), which are then published in Service News and on the AA GB Website. The 12 Questions (and Literature questions) have to be published in the AA Winter Service News (submission date is end of October) to enable Members/Groups/Intergroups & Regions time to review them ahead of Conference; so unfortunately by the time the responses have been sent out for the questions not going to Conference it's not possible to change the decision on which will be the 12 questions published in the Service News as going to Conference. TOR 7
19	Conference is asked to consider including full minutes of the "Open Forum" section of each annual Conference in the Final Conference Report	TOR12	This would not be practical or appropriate as it removes the option to speak freely at an open Forum. The Structure Handbook (page 153 section 4) needs to be updated as the open forum was never meant to be minuted
20	production and circulation of a full set of independently verified accounts for the 75th Convention within two months of this Conference.	TOR5 and TOR7	The committee decided that this question has been discussed within the last three years and the information was recently given to the Fellowship via regional treasurers
21	Making minutes of board meetings available	TOR12	The Charity Commission recommends that minutes of a Charity's AGM be made fully available to all its members. In this case the members of the General Service Board are the Trustees. However following each Board meeting, bullet points are made available to all Regions via the Vice-Chair emailing them to Regional Chairs / Secretaries.
22	Trustee Nomination Process	TOR5 and TOR8	The Board will incorporate the changes into the Structure Handbook which will form part of Conference 2025 if it decides to continue the policy.
23	Conference to be held over 2.5 days and it starts on Thursday	TOR10	The Committee felt that a number of the key concerns raised in the question appear to have been alleviated by the changes made at Conference 2024, such as restricting each Committee to 2 questions and the use of electric voting, which meant there was more time available. Our experience this year suggested there were not the late-night sessions of previous years and there seemed to be a reasonable time for discussions and fellowship. Spreading the Conference over 4 days Thursday to Sunday (5 days for those who could not travel to York by mid-morning on a Thursday) would mean delegates would be required to take more time away from home/work which might actually make it harder to recruit them, rather than easier as suggested in the question.
24	Conference is asked to consider publishing the Conference matrix	TOR12	The question will not go to Conference but CSC have agreed to have the matrix published in AA Service News going forward.
25	procedure for reviewing new films/videos	TOR8	This question would be referred to the General Service Board for consideration.
26			In accordance with Concept II (see Structure Handbook for GB 2023), it would not be feasible to mandate that Poster campaigns must run in conjunction with the timeline of the Annual Conference Process (i.e. like the Questions for Conference Feedback Process); to attempt to do so would mostly result in significant delays (and also increased cost) for any Poster campaign.

26	Poster campaigns going to the fellowship to vote on not conference	TOR 7 and TOR11	<p>In accordance with The Conference Charter (Structure Handbook P150), Conference Delegates are empowered to vote as their conscience dictates and Regions elect them on that basis. Concept III states "Conference Delegates are primarily the world servants of AA as a whole, that only in a secondary sense do they represent their respective areas. Consequently they should, on final decisions, be entitled to cast their votes in the General Service Conference according to the best dictates of their own judgement and conscience at that time"</p> <p>With regard to the point raised about the AA logo, as detailed on pages 28 & 29 of the Conference 2024 Final Report (together with reasoning and background to the discussion on this), Conference voted by a two-thirds plus majority to not have the logo on the posters.</p>
27	Can GSO update the web-based Meeting Finder so that Hybrid meetings can be discovered both as 'In-person' and 'Online' meetings	TOR8	The questions will not go to Conference as this is already being worked on by the Website team.
28	a Conference delegate who is unable to complete their terms of service	TOR7 and TOR8	this information already exists on p.159 of the 2023 edition of the Structure handbook. The General Service Board will update information on p.147.
32	Mileage expenses due to introduction of Hybrid and Electric cars	TOR9	<p>The Group Service Board has to comply with the rate and guidelines set by HMRC for Petrol, Diesel, Hybrid & Electric vehicles</p> <p>The Fellowship however is not regulated in this respect and can therefore use a different rate for electric vehicles if it chooses, in accordance with Tradition 4.</p>
33	Would Conference discuss the merits of producing a leaflet specifically designed to catch the attention of problem drinkers visiting doctor's surgeries or other health and social care locations	TOR8	The question will not go to conference but will be referred to the Health and Lit sub-committees to review
34	Tradition Two - As he may express himself / Who can vote at a group conscience	TOR5 and TOR7	this question has been already submitted within the last three years and that this information is covered on p 101-102 in the 2023 edition of the Structure Handbook.
35	Change in Welsh law to use Welsh on all posters and flyers	TOR8	This does not need Conference Approval so it will be referred to the Board for action.
36	In an effort to remove conflict and division within the Fellowship would Conference consider the matter of non-AA merchandise being sold at AA Conventions for the gain of individual AA members	TOR7 and TOR10	This is already covered in the structure handbook, p177
37	on groups providing copies of the Big Book free of charge.	TOR9 and TOR12	Conference upholds the autonomy of groups. The Committee also felt that each group being autonomous can purchase Big Books as they see fit according to Tradition 4. This will ensure that income continues to be sent down through the Service structure.

38	Homelessness Liaison Officer	TOR9 and Tradition4	As the response from Committee 6 to Q2 at Conference 2021 indicates, the experience of reaching out to alcoholics within the homeless community differs across the country, often depending upon local circumstances. In some places this activity is carried out across Health, PI and Young Person Liaison Officers; in others, such as Brighton an Intergroup or Region may see the need for a role specifically dedicated to this. The Committee feels that Tradition 4 enables each Group, Intergroup or Region to decide for itself whether or not they need a specific Homelessness Liaison Officer role and what their remit should be, rather than asking Conference to define a new role which would apply to all areas.
39	Would Conference consider the urgent need to fully and professionally re-edit the titles published by The General Service Board GB in British Sign Language (with sub-titles and audio transcription). Title 1. Alcoholics Anonymous (abridged) 4 DVDs Title 2 Twelve Steps & Twelve Traditions3 DVDs	TOR8	The question will not go to conference but will be referred to the board/Lit Sub-committee to investigate options for updating.
40	Trustee Nomination Process	TOR5 and TOR8	The Board will incorporate the changes into the Structure Handbook which will form part of conference 2025 if it decides to continue the policy.
41	considering having a deadline for the publishing of the AA quarterly financial reports.	TOR8	As a result of this question being discussed with the regional treasurers the governance is already in place to be updated by the General Service Board. There are practical reasons why this has not happened but the Finance Committee will revisit this challenge.
42	Make conference every 3 years	TOR12	The pamphlets 'The Twelve Concepts for Service in Great Britain', 'General Service Conference – The Conscience of AA GB' and pages 144 to 153 of the Structure Handbook 2023 detail the fundamental importance to the Fellowship of the Annual General Service Conference and how it is the practical means by which the Group conscience in Britain can express itself in matters that concern the Fellowship as a whole. There are so many reasons why the Fellowship determined the Conference needed to be annual including each year between 70 to 120 questions are submitted by individuals/groups/intergroups/regions for response by the Steering Committee or Conference; each year Conference has to review/approve all changes to AA literature; each year Conference will review reports from the Group Service Board and approve activity such as new PI videos and Poster campaigns etc. It would not be possible to store up all of this activity to only be reviewed once every 3 years.
43	Conference is asked to discuss, and make recommendations, how best to celebrate important anniversaries in AA history. These are significant milestones, which deserve commemoration and respect.	TOR9	Probably a bit early for this, however we recognise the autonomy of Regions, Intergroups and Groups to organise conventions as they see fit.

45	reviewing the current guidance for keeping the fellowship safe, with particular emphasis on removing the SG guidance/policy and returning back to the original guidance on "Violence and personal conduct".	TOR5	This question has already been discussed in the last three years. However, the Committee agreed that it would be a good idea to describe the history of and explain the differences in the AAGB Safeguarding policy as applied to the Fellowship and the Charity. This will be presented in the Alternate Chair's report at Conference 2025
46	Could we consider publishing the Plain Language Big Book in the UK	TOR8	Any literature that is approved by US Conference is automatically approved for AA GB. This does not therefore need to go to GB Conference for approval; we can print this already or stock it. This question will therefore be referred to the Group Service Board for action.
47	Would Conference share experience of whether use of the National Telephone Sub Committees "12 Stepper Application Form" has impacted negatively on the numbers of members willing the volunteer for our vital, fundamental service offered by Alcoholics Anonymous to the s6ll suffering alcoholic.	TOR10	DBS is optional for telephone responders.
48	Trustee Nomination Process	TOR5 and TOR8	The Board will incorporate the changes into the Structure Handbook which will form part of conference 2025 if it decides to continue the policy.
51	asking the UK world delegate to bring our voice to AA as a whole in having a role in decisions that affect AA especially when it comes to making changes in the Big Book and other literature.	TOR10	This question was not a valid question since the World Service Conference does not make decisions and therefore the question is based on a false premise. AA USA/Canada states that every country is autonomous and can print what they like (if voted on in their Conference).
52	making the US service manual available to buy from GSO York	TOR8	<p>Were told that the reason why it was not available to buy from York was because it had been discontinued. It was withdrawn from sale in York because it had been seldom purchased in the past. The Board felt that as US literature, it is not directly relevant to members in the UK.</p> <p>It is possible to download the US Service manual free, as a pdf from the website, see link https://www.aa.org/aa-service-manualtwelve-concepts-world-services</p> <p>The Committee also heard that the Board would take action to update the reference in the Service Manual for Conference Delegates, where it suggests that Delegates read the World Service Manual, to suggest that the UK Service Manual and the 12 Concepts should be read instead.</p>

53	Discuss the benefit of the GSB returning to having an Internal Communications committee & External Communications committee, as listed in the AA Service Handbook 2022, but deleted from the 2023 Handbook. With particular emphasis on the need for an external communications focus.	TOR7 and TOR8	This should have been removed from the Structure Manual when it was decided not to do it anymore, it will now be referred to the Literature Committee to remove.
54	how the Conference matrix can be used to inform the implementation of Conference recommendations	TOR12	The Committee agreed to publish the Conference matrix in the AA Service News, which will be discussed further in the Alternate Delegate's report at Conference 2025. The published matrix will be carried forward by each subsequent Conference Steering Committee
55	the new terms and conditions of the Online Confidential Directory.	TOR10	Were informed that it was not possible for Conference to decide the terms and conditions of the Directory because it is part of the website and therefore the responsibility of the Charity to administer, not the Fellowship, as it is subject to GDPR.
56	Conference is asked to consider and make recommendations for putting in place a clear disciplinary policy and a clear impartial appeal procedure for AAGB GSB Sub Committee members	TOR7	Disciplinary procedure and grievance policy already exists
57	the benefit of having a published draft financial budget by topic, of the work planned, for the year ahead, by GSO and GSB	TOR8	The Committee agreed to refer this matter to the General service Board for further consideration.
58	AAGB adopting some Safeguarding literature from the US website, and using it on the AAGB website instead of the Safeguarding and Personal Conduct V2 Revised' policy currently in our Structure Handbook and online.	TOR5	were reminded that Safeguarding had been discussed at Conference 2022, which is within the 3 year limit, and the Safeguarding policy document was voted on at that Conference. There were several questions on the same topic this year, therefore the Committee felt that some discussion should be held at this Conference, and some questions were taken as the basis for a composite question.

59	<p>Would conference discuss the telephone responder application form recommended by the NTSC and in so doing consider the following questions:</p> <p>1. Is the key question on the form legal? And / or Is the NTSC misinforming and misleading TLOs such that they might break the law?</p> <p>2. Is the form necessary at all? And / or Should we not instead rely on our own sound methods for choosing responders</p>	TOR10	<p>DBS is optional for telephone responders</p>
60	<p>how the current AAGB Safeguarding Policy impacts AA's primary purpose</p>	TOR10	<p>The Committee thought that this question was not clear enough to get to the main gist of the problem posed. In our opinion AA's Primary purpose should have no correlation with the wellbeing and safeguarding of individuals as they are two separate entities. It would be good to have more background and please feel free to resubmit next year.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to have an explanation of the AAGB Safeguarding Policy with reference to the Fellowship and the Charity in the Alternate Chair's report at Conference 2025.</p>
61	<p>the role of the General Secretary</p>	TOR7 and TOR8	<p>Acknowledged that the role of General Secretary is an employed position, appointed by the Charity, and therefore not within the remit of Conference. After discussion the matter was referred to the Chair of the Board, who was requested to include a description of the role and responsibilities within his address to Conference 2025, in order to clarify any confusion that may exist.</p>
62	<p>Would Conference discuss and make recommendations on whether or not implementing Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI) initiatives into AA is in alignment with our Traditions</p>	TOR5, TOR7 and TOR10	<p>The questions is based on a false assertion and it's an outside issue.</p>
66	<p>publishing role descriptions for Intergroup and Region Liaison Officers</p>	TOR7 and TOR9	<p>Felt that there were sufficient existing guidelines for Liaison Officers in the Service Handbook. Some roles are also expanded in the Service section of the website, and there are pamphlets on individual roles in the Documents section which are helpful. If Intergroups or Regions wish to vary or add new Liaison Officer positions, then they have the autonomy to do so, and to create guidelines for those roles at a local level. It is also preferable that members should be sponsored into service roles by previous Officers where possible, this has the added advantage of being tailored to the local issues of each role.</p>

67	<p>Amendment to Concept IV Great Britain Version</p> <p>AA GB does not (fully) implement this Concept - GSO are not represented at Conference.</p> <p>Therefore, Conference is asked to consider one of the following options:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Remove this Concept from the GB Version and number the remaining ones IV - XI 2. Instruct the GSB to reword Concept IV for GB to reflect the current situation and to write a new essay explaining our version. 3. Revoke the decision of Conference 2009 not to give GSO staff representation and make suggestions as to how this can be implemented 	TOR12	GSO staff voted against having a vote years ago and we asked again due to this question coming up and they reaffirmed their wish to not have a vote
68	setting up a working party to review how GB Conference works in relation to AA World Services	TOR5, TOR7 and TOR12	After considerable discussion the Committee agreed that essentially a comparison is not required since AA GB has had its own Conference since 1965 and has moved away from the World Service Manual as a result of pursuing its own conscience. World Service Conference is attended every two years by trusted servants who share 'best practice' and current issues arising in different fellowships around the world.
69	the General Service pamphlet being amended	TOR8	Decided, after discussion, to refer this question to the Literature sub-committee for consideration.
70	<p>Would Conference direct the General Service Board to bring back The AA Service Manual</p> <p>Combined with the Twelve Concepts for World Service (AA Service Manual) to the literature sold by GSO</p>	TOR8, TOR10 and TOR12	We stopped stocking it because it is not applicable to us and hardly anyone bought it when it was stocked. You can actually download the PDF from the US website
71	why no action was taken by the Conference Steering Committee over the question submitted last year about the Terms of Reference	TOR12	The Alternate Chair will explain what happened in his report to Conference 2025, which should help to clarify the issue

72	the identification of Open and Closed meetings within the search facility for the Meeting Finder on the website.	TOR8	Considered this question at length and decided that it while it was a potentially helpful suggestion, it did not fall within the remit of Conference and should be referred to the PIE/COMMS sub-committee for consideration.
73	Trustee Nomination Process	TOR5 and TOR8	The Board will incorporate the changes into the Structure Handbook which will form part of conference 2025 if it decides to continue the policy.
74	Would conference consider reversing the uses of the term GROUP Service Representative in any UK literature back to GENERAL Service Representative	TOR12	Not a conference question but we will explain why at in Spring AA Service News and in Alt Chairs report at Conference
75	availability the USA service manual from GSO York.	TOR8, TOR10 and TOR12	The General service Board will amend the number 1 under c) "preparation", p 147 in the 2023 edition of AAGB Structure Hand book by removing the reference to the World Service Manual. GSO stopped stocking the US manual because it was not applicable to AAGB and hardly anyone bought it when it was stocked. However, the manual is downloadable in the pdf format from the US website https://www.aa.org/aa-service-manualtwelve-concepts-world-services
76	AAGB taking a more active role in the changes or updates to the Big Book	TOR12	The copyright of the Big Book is actually held by the US, however the Committee noted that the aspiration to work more closely with the US was an ongoing process that was evident at Conference 2024. The Chair of the Board referred to this collaboration in his opening speech, and the US's development of the 'simple language' Big Book was discussed, it was flagged to be available in the UK, to buy, in 2025.
77	Would conference discuss the telephone responder application form recommended by the NTSC and in so doing consider the following questions: 1. Is the key question on the form legal? And / or Is the NTSC misinforming and misleading TLOs such that they might break the law? 2. Is the form necessary at all? And / or should we not instead rely on our own sound methods for choosing responders	TOR10	DBS is optional for telephone responders
78	how the current AAGB Safeguarding Policy impacts AA's primary purpose	TOR10	The Committee thought that this question was not clear enough to get to the main gist of the problem posed. In our opinion AA's Primary purpose should have no correlation with the wellbeing and safeguarding of individuals as they are two separate entities. It would be good to have more background and please feel free to resubmit next year. The Committee agreed to have an explanation of the AAGB Safeguarding Policy with reference to the Fellowship and the Charity in the Alternate Chair's report at Conference 2025.
79	AAGB adopting some Safeguarding literature from the US website, and using it on the AAGB website instead of the Safeguarding and Personal Conduct V2 Revised' policy currently in our Structure Handbook and online.	TOR5	Were reminded that Safeguarding had been discussed at Conference 2022, and the Safeguarding policy document was voted on at that Conference. There were several questions on this topic therefore the Committee felt that some discussion should be held at this Conference, and some questions were taken as the basis for a composite question.

80	Given that the big time commitment for the role significantly restricts the number of potential nominees, would Conference discuss and make recommendations as to whether opening up the role of Board Trustee to job-share (where practical and legal) could increase the number of nominations thereby reducing the number of Regions without a Trustee, and also increase the diversity of members able to come forward for this important service with benefits to the Fellowship as a whole	TOR8	Board hire it's own members, Board to explain why this is not possible either in Spring AA Service News or a Confernece 2025 when it will feature in a report which will be published as part of the total confernece report which is sent to all members registered on the directory (so all GSRs and those in service at Intergrroups, Regions and on Sub-Committees)
81	a review of Structure Handbook p160 (2023) edition, Section 3 General Service Board members regarding appointment of new members of the General Service Board	TOR5 and TOR8	The Committee agreed that although this question has been discussed within the previous three years, it will be passed on to the General Service Board to update the Structure Handbook accordingly
83	how groups join Intergrroups	TOR9	Highlighted that the recommendation from Committee 3 Question 1 2024, that groups should join which ever Intergroup "its conscience decides" was related directly to the discussion of online groups, where the difficulty arises from some groups having no geographical link to any particular Intergroup, and has been addressed to some degree by an Online Intergroup being formed. It was also acknowledged that within the Fellowship, where 2 or more Intergrroups border each other, local groups will often choose which one to join according to their, and the Intergroup's, autonomous choice. Acceptance into an Intergroup needs to be agreed by the Intergroup.
84	Does Conference think it necessary to discuss non-alcoholic and alcohol-free cider, gin etc	TOR11	This is an outside issue
85	a review of its 2022 decision not to adopt the revised preamble passed by Conference in USA/Canada	TOR5	Since this question has been discussed within the previous three years.